IN THE CLAIMS:

1. - 31. *cancelled*

32. *(currently amended)* A method for processing a session in a packet-processing system, the session having a session rate, the method comprising the steps of:

determining whether the session rate matches one of a plurality of basic rates, ~~which~~ with each basic rate associated with a respective one of a plurality of rate-specific queues; and

splitting the session, in response to a non-match of the session rate with any of the basic rates, into subsessions for queuing into ~~at least~~ one of the rate-specific queues, wherein the rate is selected and the session is split such that every subsession is restricted to have ~~has~~ an identical subsession rate.

33. - 34. *cancelled*

35. *(previously presented)* The method of claim 32, wherein the subsession rate matches one of the plurality of basic rates.

36. *(original)* The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of:

queuing the subsessions into a corresponding rate-specific queue having an associated basic rate matching the subsession rate.

37. *(original)* The method of claim 32, wherein the steps of determining and splitting are performed by a queue controller.

38. *(original)* The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of:

processing the session and subsessions using a per-connection-timestamp procedure.

39. *(original)* The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of:

processing the session and subsessions using a no-per-connection-timestamp procedure.

40. *(original)* The method of claim 32, wherein the rate-specific queues are rate first-in-first-out (FIFO) queues.

41. - 51. *cancelled*